

# Richmond Dispatch.

WEDNESDAY...NOVEMBER 30, 1881.

## FROM WASHINGTON.

How the Greenbackers Want to Pay the National Debt.—Mr. John Lewis's Motives in the Christianity Divorce Case.

## GUITEAU'S DEFENCE.

### THE SECOND DAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF THE ASSASSIN'S TRIAL.

#### THE PRISONER AS A WITNESS.

**He is Reluctant to Testify for Fear His Defence Being Developed by Cross-Examination.**

#### HE FINALLY BEGINS HIS STORY.

**Curious Revelations of a Checkered Life—Many of Guiteau's Letters Read in Evidence.**

A Washington special to the Baltimore Sun says Greenbackers profess to be much encouraged by their increased vote in most of the States in which general elections have been held this fall. Some of their leaders who are now in Washington say that the members of that party elected to the House of Representatives will take every opportunity at the coming session to press their measures upon the attention of that body. One of the favorite Greenback ideas is that sufficient legal-tenders should be issued to pay off the national debt in full. They argue that legal-tenders are now at par, that they are a non-interest-bearing obligation, and that if the public debt was paid off with them the country would be relieved of the burden imposed by the annual interest on the debt. It is expected that propositions for the inflation of the currency, with this and other objects in view, will be presented. The Greenbackers either cannot or will not see that the inevitable result of any such wholesale inflation of the currency as they propose would be its rapid and disastrous depreciation. *Apropos* of this matter, it is very significant to note that the director of the mint, who has always been a pronounced silver and paper man, recommends in his annual report that the coining of silver be discontinued until the Treasury gets rid of some of its vast accumulations of this metal. Silver is now piled up and overflowing in every available sub-treasury vault in the United States, and yet the immense monthly coinage is still going on, so it is perhaps no accident that the director of the mint has come to this sense. The paper currency has been inflated, and a demand for silver issue of silver certificates to replace silver which has never been out of Government possession from the time it was coined. This is in accordance with the "constructive" idea of Mr. Sherman when Secretary, and it is understood that a committee of Congress will be called to it.

A WEAKMASTER ON PRINCIPLE.  
United States—Marshall Lewis, the Reid-juster Lieutenant-Governor elect of Virginia, says the freely-circulated statements that he considers the United States senatorship should be given to him on account of previous understandings with General McNamee are erroneous. He says that he had gone into the Reid-juster movement on principle, because it embodied ideas which met his approval.

COMING BACK FOR THE PLACES.  
Four or five of the old officers of the House who went over when the Democrats came in, and who immediately disappeared from their familiar haunts in Washington, have returned to the city, and say that they expect to get back to their old places.

THE CHRISTIANITY DIVORCE CASE—HIS MOTHER IN LAW GOING FOR HIM.

Mr. Scoville, rising, said he wanted to take the stand. "This was an announcement waited for with great interest, and when made it created a little ripple of excitement. The prisoner was seated on the stand, where he sat down, resting on his elbows on the edge of the box. There was a strong guard, making a complete wall, posted behind him. When the prisoner had become composed in his new place, in which he seemed to be considerably agitated, Mr. Scoville, standing up near the table of the prosecution, said: "You may state your earliest recollections of your mother."

HE OBJECTS TO GIVING HIS TESTIMONY AT THIS TIME.

The prisoner hesitated a moment, looking first at Judge Cox and then at Mr. Scoville.

"Do I understand," he said, "that I am to go on the stand as a regular witness now? I understand that I was only to identify some papers. I do not care to go on as a regular witness to be cross-examined at this stage of the case. There are other witnesses to be examined."

Mr. Scoville insisted that he must go on with the examination.

"You ought to have notified me," said the prisoner rather emphatically; "when I go on the stand I want to go over this whole business carefully and scientifically."

Mr. Scoville said he would make the examination easy, and ask only a few questions.

GUITEAU WILLING TO TESTIFY IF HE WAS NOT TO BE CROSS-EXAMINED.

"I am willing to answer, providing the prosecution do not take advantage of my position to cross-examine me and bring out my whole defense."

Judge Porter said that whenever the prisoner was examined that the prosecution of course would claim the right to cross-examine. He suggested that Mr. Scoville might avoid any dilemma at present by reading the letters which were identified by the prisoner last evening.

Mr. Scoville said if the prisoner became exhausted he would suspend and read the letters.

"I don't want to be forced on the stand to state my defense just at this time," protested the prisoner.

The Court said, in reply to a question of the prosecution, that the examination of the witness could not be interrupted in the midst of a continuous narrative without consent of the prosecution.

"I want the Court to state," said the prisoner, turning to Judge Cox, "whether I am forced to go on and state my whole defense now. I want your Honor's ruling on that."

The Court said again that unless the prisoner was examined that the examination of the witness could not be interrupted, and the only way to escape cross-examination was to suspend the entire examination.

"I desire to have it suspended," said the prisoner. "I don't feel very well, and haven't for several days."

THE PRISONER HAS HIS WAY.

Mr. Scoville then put an end to the colloquy by saying, "I will read the letters, then."

"I don't think," said the prisoner, "I should be forced on the stand at all this time."

"You are not obliged to testify at all," said Judge Cox; "but if you do, you must, of course, submit to cross-examination."

THE PRISONER OBJECTS TO BEING TOO CONSPICUOUS.

Mr. Scoville, taking the bundle of letters identified by the prisoner yesterday, walked through the crowd to the witness stand. Having adjusted his spectacles, he began to arrange the letters. The prisoner meanwhile became restless. He evidently did not like his conspicuous place in the court-room. "If the Court please," he said, "I would like to retire to my old seat. It will take him (mentioning to Mr. Scoville) an hour two."

December Coal Prices.

PHILADELPHIA, November 28.—The receivers of the Reading Coal and Iron Company announced the prices on coal delivered at their works as follows: Hard white-ash coal—Broken, \$4.30; egg, \$4.30; stove, \$4.40; chestnut, \$4.15; Free-burning white-ash coal—Broken, \$4.30; egg, \$4.30; stove, \$4.40; chestnut, \$4.15; Schuykill red-ash coal—Broken, \$4.40; stove, \$4.40; chestnut, \$4.40; \$4.50; Shamokin coal—Egg, \$4.30; stove, \$4.40; chestnut, \$4.15; Lorberry coal—Egg, \$4.40; stove, \$4.30; chestnut, \$4.15; Lykens Valley (Brookside)—Egg, \$4.30; stove, \$4.40; chestnut, \$4.15. Hard white-ash Lump and steamboat, \$4.55, and pea, \$2.35. Free-burning white-ash pea coal, \$2.

The line and city prices for coals delivered at Schuykill Haven are to be as follows:

Lump—White ash, \$2; steamboat, white ash, \$2.50; Broken—White ash, \$2.75; red ash, \$2.75; Shamokin, \$2.75; Lorberry, \$2.85; Lykens Valley, \$3.35; Egg—White ash, \$2.75; red ash, \$2.75; Shamokin, \$2.75; Lorberry, \$2.85; Lykens Valley, \$3.35; Chestnut, \$2.85; stove and small stove—White ash, \$2.85; red ash, \$2.85; Shamokin, \$2.85; Lorberry, \$2.85; Lykens Valley, \$3.35; Chestnut, \$2.85; Chestnut No. 1—White ash, \$2.60; red ash, \$2.60; Shamokin, \$2.60; Lorberry, \$2.60; Lykens Valley, \$2.75; Chestnut No. 2, \$2.50; pea No. 1, \$1.65; \$1.85; pea, No. 2, \$1.40.

THE LEADING OF GUITEAU'S LETTERS.

The prisoner was then escorted back to his seat at the table, and for convenience of facing the jury Mr. Scoville stepped into the witness stand. He spread the letters out on the ledge of the box in front of him.

The first few letters read were dated at Chicago in the fall and winter of 1857 and the early months of 1858. They were addressed to the prisoner's father, and there was nothing especially noticeable in them as indicating any eccentricity of mind. Guiteau was then seated with his sister, Mrs. Scoville, and attending a business college in Chicago. A great part of his letters was taken up with detailed statements of his expenses. An item which appeared in nearly every letter was underclothing. The prisoner at that time seemed to have an infatuation for underclothing.

THE PRISONER COMMENTS ON THE LETTERS.

During the reading of the letters the prisoner made a few explanatory remarks. "I was using my own money," he said; "but my father was my guardian. He would not send me the money unless I sent him a detailed statement every week."

THE PRISONER RESUMES HIS NARRATIVE.

The court adjourned at 1:10 P. M. The prisoner, when brought in, was placed on the stand. The prisoner on further examination, said he left the Community in April, 1865, went to New York, then went to Philadelphia and a room.

HIS ADMISSION TO THE BAR.

The prisoner gave a very ludicrous description of his admission to the bar. He had studied in General Reynolds's office, he said. Mr. Reynolds sent him to Charley

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. The drooping spirits; invigorate and harmonize the organic functions; gives elasticity and firmness to the step; restores the natural lustre to the eye, and plants on the pale cheek of beauty the fresh roses of life's spring and early summer time.

NOTHING CRANKY IN THE LETTERS,

which were very well worded, and resembled the letters ordinarily written by self-conscious schoolboys. October 16, 1859, he wrote from Ann Arbor to Mr. Scoville, giving his first experiences at Ann Arbor in a very rational way. On November 16, following, he wrote from the same place to his sister, Mrs. Scoville, and merely gave the prisoner's school experiences, closing with an adhesion to his sister to depend on God for all things, and exhorting her to seek the means of salvation.

MORE OF THE LETTERS.

The next letter read was dated at the Oneida Community in August, 1861, and addressed to his sister. It unfolded the prisoner's peculiar religious views. The next, dated New York, January 3, 1867, was addressed to Mr. Scoville, and in a very rational way announced his departure from the Oneida Community. The next letter was dated New York, February 5, 1867, and addressed to J. W. Guiteau. It gave a little review of his religious experiences and his change of views concerning the Oneida Community. He paid a compliment to the virtues of the members of the Community, and said it was a trial for him to leave them. This letter announced that he was a member of the Young Men's Christian Association. He announced his intention to make New York his permanent home. The next letter was to his father, dated June 22, 1867, and was of a character similar to those immediately preceding it. Going back, Mr. Scoville read a letter dated Freerport, September 3, 1859, which informed Mr. Scoville of his intention to go to New York, "but they kick you at it."

IN HARD LUCK.

The prisoner here eulogized his own abilities as a lawyer, and his shrewdness in getting business. He made \$2,000 in the first year, he said. "I go up right to a man," he said, "and show him what I want and reference. I always carry good references and that gets me business—my references and my experience. If the man showed any disposition to give me business, I would follow that man right up, you know."

He was in Chicago, he said, from 1868 to 1871, and then went to New York. The first year he made \$1,300, and the second \$2,500; then his misfortunes came. He described at length his troubles. He was well-dressed, he said. Then he was incarcerated in the Tombs for not paying a board bill, but released, as his confinement was unconstitutional. "They don't stop to inquire how you got down," said the prisoner, moralizing upon his condition in New York, "but they kick you at it."

IN THE CLOTHES.

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IN HARD LUCK.

"I never was indicted for any offence in my life except the present crime," he said. Speaking of his experience under arrest in New York, he said: "I think that was the unhappiest streak I ever had in my life—those five days I spent in Jefferson-Market Police Court. I thought I would go crazy there." When he was released from the Tombs, he continued, "I put myself in a bath-tub, with water scalding hot, and stayed there two hours." He spoke with great disgust of his associates in the prison, and said he had not taken a bath for thirty-five days. In 1875 he went to Chicago. There he was struck by the Chicago *Inter-Ocean* idea, and wrestled with until he exhausted himself on it. The paper could be bought then, he understood, for \$75,000. His idea was to make it the great organ of the Democracy, and the first four months of the present fiscal year have been \$51,000,000, and if this increase should be maintained during the remaining eight months of the fiscal year the receipts for 1882 will be fully \$15,000,000. Respecting a reduction of internal-revenue taxes Commissioner Baum says:

"A good large increase in the receipts of the Government and the great reduction in the principal and interest of the public debt are causing discussion as to the propriety of reducing the income of the Government by lowering some of the taxes and dropping others altogether." He then called attention to the recent action of the National Distillers' Association in favor of a reduction of the tax on distilled spirits, and a reduction in the rates will be raised from these sources."

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